

**ADVISORY COUNCIL ON WILDLIFE & FRESHWATER FISH MEETING MINUTES**  
**TUESDAY, November 28, 2017**  
**Richardson & Robbins Building Auditorium**  
**89 Kings Highway, Dover, Delaware**  
**Phone 302-739-9912, FAX 302-739-6157**

**ADVISORY COUNCIL**

1. Edward A. Montague, Chair
2. Garrett Grier, Jr., Vice Chair
3. Raymond F. Burris
4. Neal Dukes
5. Craig A. Karsnitz (Absent)
6. Joe C. Johnson (Absent)
7. Steven M. Kendus
8. Dale R. Scuse
9. F. Thomas Unruh

**DIVISION OF FISH & WILDLIFE**

1. David E. Saveikis
2. Joe Rogerson
3. Justyn Foth
4. Enforcement Lt. Carl Wickoski

**PUBLIC**

4 Visitors

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Montague at 7:00 PM.

**Agenda Item 1. Approval of Minutes (Chairman).**

A motion was made, seconded and passed unanimously to approve the October 31, 2017 meeting minutes as written.

**Agenda Item 2. Pistol-Caliber Rifle Proposal (Constituent - Richard Stallings).**

Constituent withdrew their request to speak on this agenda item.

**Agenda Item 3. Commercial Game Preserve Participant License Proposal (Constituent - Andrew Smith).**

Andrew Smith, owner of a commercial shooting preserve, proposed that a one-day hunting license be established for individual participants hunting upland game birds at commercial shooting preserves. His proposal included that a regular resident or non-resident hunting license could continue to be used in lieu of the proposed one-day commercial shooting preserve license. Mr. Smith stated that the number of non-resident hunters utilizing commercial shooting preserves has substantially decreased due to the necessary increase in hunting license fees. He also indicated that he believes we are losing a number of potential new hunters due to decreased participation and associated loss of mentoring opportunities at commercial shooting preserves. He proposed that individuals buying

this one-day commercial shooting preserve license would need to comply with the same hunter education requirements as for regular hunting licenses. Mr. Smith proposed that the one-day individual shooting preserve license fee amount be the same for resident, non-resident and youth hunters, with discussion on a possible fee ranging from \$39.50 to \$20.00.

The Council unanimously passed a motion endorsing a one-day commercial shooting preserve license with a fee of \$20.00 as an alternative to a regular hunting license for resident, non-resident and youth individuals hunting upland game at commercial shooting preserves. Establishing this new license type and associated fee would require legislation passage by the General Assembly. The Division indicated that it would evaluate if there was an opportunity to include this one-day license to hunt commercial shooting preserves in the agency's 2018 legislative priorities.

**Agenda Item 4. Director Update (David E. Saveikis).**

Director Saveikis clarified for the Council, based on recent hunting violations, that concealed carry permit holders cannot have a loaded hunting firearm in their vehicle if engaged in hunting.

Director Saveikis requested advice from the Council regarding a wildlife rehabilitation center's suggestion that the Division initiate an education initiative for hunters similar to that in Pennsylvania on not leaving accessible deer gut piles where they could be consumed by eagles and other raptors. An increasing number of eagles and raptors are being reported with lead poisoning, possibly from consuming lead ammunition fragments from exposed deer gut piles. Director Saveikis made it a point to clarify that there was no consideration of restricting use

of lead ammunition for upland or big game hunting, but rather whether the issue warranted a hunter education effort. Council discussed that in most cases the lead bullet/slug will travel through the animal and not remain in the gut pile and did not think that gut piles were a meaningful source of lead contamination of eagles and other raptors, and therefore no further action was recommended.

Director Saveikis summarized Fish & Wildlife Natural Resources Police enforcement statistics for Fiscal Year 2017 (July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017). The statistics indicate that the majority of hunters, anglers and boaters complied with laws and regulations and that the majority of those not in compliance were issued written or verbal warnings rather than citations. Of the 101,175 total public contacts, 2,151 (2.1%) were issued citations and 3,544 (3.5%) were issued either written or verbal warnings, indicating an overall 94.4% compliance rate. Of those individuals not in compliance, 37.8% were issued a citation and 62.2% were issued either a written or verbal warning. The Council discussed issuing written warnings rather than verbal warnings. The Division's goal is to achieve public compliance with laws and regulations through education and needed enforcement actions, with these statistics demonstrating excellent compliance rates through our Natural Resources Police education efforts and public cooperation.

#### **AGENDA FOR THE 1/30/2018 ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING**

1. Approval of Minutes (Chairman).
2. Proposed Base 2018/19 Migratory Game Bird Seasons for Delaware (Rob Hossler & Justyn Foth).
3. Proposed Expansion of Waterfowl Hunting Opportunities at Ted Harvey Conservation Area (Rob Hossler).
4. Update on Hunting and Trapping License and Conservation Access Pass Sales and Revenues (David E. Saveikis).
5. Director Update (David E. Saveikis).

There being no further business, a motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 7:52 PM.

Sincerely,



Julia Adams, Recording Secretary